Indiscipline in the Air India Staff

1467. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant indiscipline in Air-India staff;

(b) whether it is also a fact that flight-deck duty norms have not been revised for a long time;

(c) whether as a result thereof Air India has become less competitive; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to improve the matters?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Flight Time and Flight Duty Time Limitations have not been changed since 1971 and because of this Air India has become less competitive.

(d) With a view to remain competitive, the flight and duty time limitation of flight crew has been increased through an administrative order, which has enabled operation of non-stop flights between Bombay/London and Delhi/London, with effect from 15-2-88.

Cancellation of Trains in Saurashtra and Gujarat

1468. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of trains that have been cancelled in Saurashtra and Gujarat in the last six months, what are the reasons for the same;

(b) whether the cancelled trains are proposed to be resumed, if so, when, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Bombay-Ahmedabad and some other sectors of Western Railway are the highest revenue earning sectors of Indian Railways; if not what are the five top sectors of Indian Railways which earn the highest revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Between September, 1987 and February, 1988, one pair of B.G., four pairs of M.G. and one pair of N.G. trains were cancelled due to water scarcity, heavy movement of foodgrains POL and drought relief materials, and other operational reasons.

(b) One pair each of B.G. and M.G. trains has been restored. Other trains will be restored/rationalised when the position improves. No time-frame has, however, been fixed.

(c) Statistics of earnings are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not route-wise.

Countries connected with the Indian Airlines Services

1469. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries which have been connected with Indian Airlines Services so far;

(b) whether Indian Airlines proposes to introduce its services to some more neighbouring countries in near future; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Indian Airlines operate to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Singapore, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Afghanistan.